WE'RE RIGHT ABOVE THE KINGDOM OF BEAZOL NOW.
AREN'T YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR HOMELAND?
THE EPIDEMIC HASN'T SPREAD HERE YET.
MOST LIKELY, THEY'LL MAKE IT THROUGH.
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
LOOK.

WE'VE PROVIDED A MEDICAL CENTER WITHIN THE CASTLE.
IT HAS NOW BECOME AN ASYLUM FOR THE CITIZENS OF KENT.
APOTHECARIUS ARGENTUM
CHAPTER 39
THE MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY
Translation: ScaryRel
Cleaning/QC: Icarusbrida
Typesetting: Sonika
ALL OF YOU, GET IN LINE!!
WE WILL CONDUCT OUR REGULAR EXAMIN-ATION

PLEASE LET ME PASS THE EXAMINATION..
"EXAMINATION"? FOR WHAT?
YOU DON'T KNOW?
I'M NEW. JUST GOT HERE LAST MONTH
THEY CONDUCT A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION HERE TWICE A MONTH.
IF THEY DEEM THAT YOU'RE CURED OR HAVE NO ABNORMAL SYMPTOMS, YOU GET RELEASED.
HM
PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU,
LET ME SEE HIS MAJESTY!
WHAT BUSINESS WOULD A KID LIKE YOU HAVE WITH LORD TRILDAN?!

I ONLY WANTED TO THANK HIM. I DIDN'T GET SICK BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL MEDICINE HE GAVE ME.
BESIDES, HIS HIGHNESS IS CURRENTLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY INSPECTING THE NEIGHBORING LANDS
THAT'S ENOUGH NONSENSE.
IT'S TRUE! HE ALSO TOLD ME, "IF YOU MANAGE TO AVOID THE ILLNESS, HEAD SOUTH."
"SPECIAL MEDICINE"? "SOUTH"?
HEY, YOU THERE!
DON'T STAND STILL, KEEP MOVING FORWARD!
I UNDERSTAND YOUR DEEP DEVOTION TOWARDS HIS HIGHNESS
LET'S HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS UPSTAIRS

CHEERS
!!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO LORD TRILDAN THAT WE CAN DRINK LIKE THIS
ABSO-LUTELY
BY THE WAY, DID YOU HEAR?
THAT RUMOR ABOUT ARGENT, THE "SILVER APOTHECARY" WHO WAS EXECUTED?
THEY SAY HE USED MAGIC TO COME BACK FROM THE DEAD,
AND THAT HE'S TAKING REVENGE BY VISITING VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND POISONING THEIR ARISTOCCRATS AND ROYALTY
OH, NOW— WHAT A CROCK
IT'S TRUE! THEY SAY THEY WITNESSED IT IN IBRAM.
BAM
DON'T SPEAK SUCH NON-SENSE!
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS, ARGENT WAS A FIRST-RATE APOTHECARY!

BOSS...
Huff
Huff
WELL, LOOK WHO IT IS... THE "FORMER ROYAL SERVANT," APOTHECARY ZANTAK
DIDN'T HE GET FIRED AGAIN WITH THE CHANGE IN REGIME?
YOU ARE ALL BEING DECEIVED!
THE ASSASSINATION OF PRINCE LORCA AND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ARGENT— IT WAS ALL THAT MAN'S SCHEMING!
HEY, HEY, WEREN'T YOU THE ONE
WHO SAID THAT ARGENT WAS USING BLACK MAGIC TO INFLUENCE THE PRINCESS?
THAT WAS... DUE TO MY MISUNDER-STANDING.
THE REAL EMBODI-MENT OF THE DEVIL IS THAT TRIL—
NOW, NOW, BOSS!
SORRY FOLKS. MY BOSS HAS A RATHER ACTIVE IMAGINATION—

NOW, NOW, THAT'S ENOUGH FIGHTING.
BOSS!
WHAT DID YOU SAY—?!
NO WAY, HE'S A QUACK.
IF YOU HAVE THE TIME TO GET DRUNK AT A PLACE LIKE THIS, WHY DON'T YOU FIND A CURE FOR THE DISEASE?
SLAM
IF YOU CAN'T DRINK NICELY, GET OUT!!
BOSS ...? Are you okay?
IT'S TRUE, I AM A QUACK.
I STAYED BEHIND TO SEEK THE TRUE CAUSE OF THIS DISEASE, YET I HAVEN'T GOTTEN A SINGLE CLUE.
HOW SHALL I EVER MAKE AMENDS TO THE LATE KING AND PRINCE LORCA ~~~?

IN THE MEANTIME, THE KINGDOM OF NAVARA...
"MY DEAREST BROTHER ADONA, THIS IS DANIEL.
PLEASE PARDON MY SUDDEN ABSENCE."
"I am currently traveling with Princess Primula of Beazol and the physician Lulu of Castoria as the Medical Assistance Group of Love. By the time this letter reaches you, we should be in the neighboring kingdom of Ibram."
DEAR ...
I'M SORRY, BUT...
UWAAAHHH!
NO GOOD, AGAIN...
SAVING THAT BOY THE LAST TIME WAS, IN A WAY, A FLUKE.

SODA, CREMATE THE BODY AND DISINFECT THIS AREA IMMEDIATELY.
BUT...
IT'S TO PREVENT TRANS-MISSION OF THE DISEASE.
INSTEAD OF DWELLING ON YOUR EMOTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON FINDING A CURE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
AT LEAST ...
IF WE UNDERSTOOD THE MEANS OF TRANSMISSION, WE COULD PREVENT IT!
SODA, IT'S AS LULU SAYS.
TAKE A LOOK AT THE PRINCESS.
EVER SINCE THEN, SHE'S BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S THE ONE SUFFERING THE MOST FROM ARGENT'S BETRAYAL.
IN FARAWAY LANDS, IT IS THEIR CUSTOM TO BURN THE BODIES OF THE DECEASED TO RELEASE THE SOULS BACK TO HEAVEN.
PRINCE DANIEL.

WELL THEY DON'T CALL HIM "THE BALLADEER OF LOVE" FOR NOTHING
IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO BURN THE REMAINS OF YOUR LOVED ONES, BUT WE CAN CREMATE HIS FAVORITE ITEM ALONG WITH HIM.
You need not worry about us at all! Dearest Brother, please take care of yourself, and I bid you well.
IT SEEMS I'M ALL BY MYSELF NOW.
AT ONE TIME, I THOUGHT IT WAS BOTHERSOME TO HAVE MY BROTHERS AROUND.
YOU SAY THAT AS IF THOUGH LORD DANIEL ISN'T COMING BACK.
LIZE.
I'M SURE HE'LL RETURN SAFELY.
THIS MAY SOUND STRANGE, BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE PRINCE LORCA IS GONE.
PERHAPS BECAUSE HIS REMAINS APPEARED AS THOUGH HE WAS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY...
YOU MUSTN'T, LORD ZESLAN!
STOMP!
STOMP!

MAMA—!
ZESLAN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
A BOX?
(UH-HUH!)
WILL YOU PLEASE HAVE A WORD WITH HIM, MY LADY! HE WON'T LET GO OF THAT BOX.
THE INSECT THAT PRINCE LORCA GAVE TO ZESLAN?
ISN'T THIS...
IT HASN'T EMERGED FROM A PUPA AFTER ALL THIS TIME, SO I WAS ABOUT TO THROW IT OUT. BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S RESISTING...
HE'S JUST LIKE LORCA WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER. NO WONDER IT FEELS AS THOUGH HE NEVER LEFT.

MY LADY, IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, MAY I LOOK AFTER IT FOR A WHILE?
YES PLEASE, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
BUZZ-BUZZ, GOO-GOO!
BUZZ-BUZZ, GOO-GOO!
?
?
YES, IT IS, LORD ZESLAN.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT BEING ALONE WOULD MAKE ME SO UNEASY.
HOW LONG WILL I BE ABLE TO SUPPORT NAVARA BY MYSELF... IF THE ENEMY WERE A SOLDIER, IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT. BUT AGAINST AN INVISIBLE ILLNESS?
DANIEL, LORCA...

"AFTER TRILDAN BECOMES KING THEY'LL TAKE OVER THIS PLACE JUST LIKE THEY DID TO MY HOMELAND."
"THEIR AIM IS THE COUNTRY ITSELF."
WHEN WAS IT, THAT GARNA SAID...
LORD TRILDAN AND THE GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY MUST BE COVERTLY CONNECTED...
I HAVE NO DOUBT THEY ARE SCHEMING TOGETHER TO TAKE DOWN OUR KINGDOM.
THIS IS MY LAST RESORT TO INVESTIGATE THEM!!

SHUCKS... I DIDN'T PASS AGAIN TODAY.
I DON'T MIND STAYING LIKE THIS.
Like here's not so bad
OH YEAH? KENT PROSPERED THROUGH TRADING AND IT'S A WEALTHY COUNTRY AROUND HERE.
HEY, WERE YOU LIVING UNDER A ROCK?
EVER SINCE LORD GORIEL TOOK THE THRONE, THAT COUNTRY'S ECONOMY IS IN SHAMBLES.
UMM~~~ WELL, I LIVED DEEP IN THE WOODS BY THE BORDER...
PLEASE! LET ME ENTER THE MEDICAL CENTER!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE'S VOLUNTEERED TO BE ADMITTED.
FURTHERMORE, HE CLAIMS TO BE AN APOTHECARY FROM BEAZOL
INDEED, I AM ZANTAK, THE FORMER ROYAL APOTHECARY!
I'VE BEEN FEVERISH SINCE LAST WEEK AND MIGHT BE INFECTED WITH THE PLAGUE!
I PROBABLY CAUGHT IT WHILE RESEARCHING THE EPIDEMIC I BEG OF YOU! HELP ME!!
THAT'S ...
BOSS ZANTAK.

THIS WAS HERE ...
HUH?
MYSREE, WHERE'S THE BOSS?
GOOD MORNING!
"YOU MEN ARE FULL-FLEDGED APOTHECARIES NOW. FORGET ABOUT ME AND FORGE A NEW PATH FOR YOURSELF.
I WILL BE ALRIGHT. DO NOT SEARCH FOR ME."
WHERE DID BOSS GO...?
SEE YOU LATER, LONGES!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT OLD MAN. I'M GOING ON THIS NEW PATH OR WHATEVER!
ZADITEN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
IT'S ALRIGHT, MYSREE
SLAM!

I THINK I KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO...
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
EVERYONE, HERE'S A NEW INMATE.
HELLO, EVERYONE. I'M THE APOTHECARY ZANTAK. NICE TO MEET YOU. ♥
RUSTLE
Admits it
THIS IS PERFECT, SINCE YOU ARE ALL HERE. I WANTED TO ASK HOW YOU CONTRACTED THE DISEASE.
IT IS AS YOU SAY.
I BET YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD DEVELOP A CURE AND HIT THE JACKPOT, RIGHT?
HA HA HA HA HA
YOU MUST EITHER BE A QUACK OR TERRIBLY UNLUCKY
YOU'RE AN APOTH-ECARY AND YOU GOT SICK?

THEY SAY THE DISEASE SPREAD FROM THE PORT, BUT DOES ANYONE HAVE SPECIFIC INFORM-ATION..
OH, A COCKROACH!
HUH? WHERE, WHERE ?
HERE ?
NO, THERE!
YUCK!
.....
WHACK!!
WAIT... THERE IT IS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU PUNK?!
Where's that roach?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, OLD MAN? YOU WANNA DIE?
I KNOW YOU'RE IN HERE TO INVES-TIGATE, BUT THAT'S TOO STRAIGHT-FORWARD...
THEY'LL CRUSH YOU.
AND YOU?

I'M MIMELA.
I'M A SPY SENT FROM NAVARA.
WITH PRINCE LORCA'S ASSASSINATION, I THOUGHT THEY HAD CUT TIES WITH BEAZOL.
SO, NAVARA IS STILL INVOLVED, HM?
I GOT HERE HALF A MONTH AGO. IT WAS THEN THAT I SAW THIS KID PLEADING TO THANK HIS MAJESTY IN PERSON AND HE'S BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE.
HE SAID HE RECEIVED A SPECIAL MEDICINE FOR THE ILLNESS.
WHAT?! THEN THAT TRILDAN IS INVOLVED WITH THIS WITH THIS EPIDEMIC AFTER ALL.
I'M CERTAIN THEY'RE USING THIS MEDICAL CENTER TO HIDE SOMETHING, UNFORTUNATELY, I LACK THE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE.
IF YOU REALLY ARE AN APOTHECARY, YOU WANNA JOIN FORCES WITH ME?
VERY WELL.

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, OLD MAN!
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, YOU SHALL BE MY APPRENTICE.
HERE'S A QUICK OVERVIEW.
FROM WHAT I'VE GATHERED, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 200 INMATES HERE
THOSE WHO ARE SICK ARE QUARANTINED IN THE MEDICAL WARD ON THE TOP FLOOR. THE PHYSICIANS ARE PROBABLY THERE AS WELL.
THE LOWER FLOORS, INCLUDING THIS ONE, ARE THE HOLDING AREA FOR THOSE WHO ARE ASYMPTOMATIC.
THE ONLY TIME THE PHYSICIANS COME DOWN HERE IS TO CONDUCT THEIR SEMIMONTHLY EXAMINATIONS. MEALS ARE GIVEN TWICE A DAY.

HAS ANYONE BEEN CURED?
I DON'T HAVE TOO MANY DETAILS,
BUT I HEARD A TINY HANDFUL WERE CURED.
THE DISEASE FIRST STARTS WITH A HIGH FEVER AND A HEADACHE,
FOLLOWED BY LESIONS ON THE SKIN, PARTICULARLY LARGE SORES AROUND THE NECK AND ARMPITS.
IF THOSE SORES HEAL, THEN THEY'RE CURED.
IF THEY START COUGHING, THEY DIE IN NO TIME. A PANICKED QUARANTINE ENSUES.
WITH COUGHING, THE INFECTION BECOMES AIRBORNE.
AIR-BORNE?
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS ILLNESS IS CAUSED BY AGENTS TOO SMALL TO SEE WITH THE EYES
THESE AGENTS TRANSMIT THE DISEASE THROUGH AIR AND WATER.
THAT WAS THE THEORY HELD BY A YOUNG APOTHECARY FROM BEAZOL.

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ARGENT, THE SILVER APOTHECARY?
BUT HE'S DEAD NOW...
THOUGH HE WAS TERRIBLY COCKY AND UNSOCIABLE, THE TRUTH WAS HE WAS SIMPLY OVERLY ASSIDUOUS AND SOCIALLY CLUMSY.
YES. IF HE WERE ALIVE, I'M SURE HE'D HAVE FOUND THE CAUSE OF THIS ILLNESS ALREADY.
AND YET, NOW THERE ARE RUMORS ABOUT HOW HE BECAME AN EVIL SPIRIT, CAUSING CALAMITY.
YOU CAME HERE BECAUSE YOU FELT GUILTY ABOUT HIM?
STILL, IT WAS I WHO SOWED THE SEEDS OF MISCONCEPTION ABOUT HIM.

THAT'S SO STUPID.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "STUPID" ?!
HE SAVED THE CITIZENS OF NAVARA!
SHH!
IF YOU'RE A SPY FROM NAVARA, THEN SURELY——
KA-TINK
RATTLE RATTLE
IT'S CHOW TIME BETTER HURRY UP.
OLD MAN, TAKE IT EASY ON KEEPING OBLIGATIONS AND BEING COMPASSIONATE.
REMEMBER, YOU GOTTA TAKE CARE OF NUMBER ONE.
EITHER WAY, I ONLY CAME HERE BECAUSE I KNEW I'D GET FED.
IT'S TRUE HE DID SAVE NAVARA, HOWEVER, MANY PEOPLE STILL PERISHED NEEDLESSLY.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK
SORRY I'M LATE. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED.
APOTHECARY ZANTAK, RIGHT? HIS APPRENTICES WERE IN A TIZZY.
TALK ABOUT A MOTH DRAWN TO A FLAME.
AND YOU'RE CRITICIZING HIM?
ANYWAY, IT SEEMS LIKE HE TRUSTED ME WHEN I TOLD HIM I WAS A SPY FROM NAVARA.
SO, WHAT INFORMATION DID YOU GATHER?
THE SILVER APOTHECARY... ARGENT HAS GONE TO THE ENEMY'S SIDE AND HAS ALREADY DEPARTED IBRAM.
I SEE... KEEP ME INFORMED THEN.
AND A MESSAGE FROM THE OTHER PARTY.. "DON'T BE TOO RECK-LESS."

I WILL SURVIVE THIS, NO MATTER WHAT.
DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT GOING TO BE LIKE INFREE.
I'M TRYING TO HATCH A PLAN. IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN COUNT ON ANYONE ELSE!
OLD MAN, YOU'RE NOT ASLEEP YET?
BUT BY HAVING SOMEONE LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND HIM, I'M SURE THAT MADE UP FOR IT.
PEOPLE JUST CAN'T ACCEPT HIS DEATH.
WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER, I DON'T THINK IT WAS YOUR FAULT.

I FELT A BIT JEALOUS EARLIER.
I'M LIKE A DEAD MAN MYSELF.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
YOU'RE STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE!!
HA HA!
WHY DO YOU LAUGH?
I WAS WONDERING IF THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO HAVE A "DAD."
YOUR PARENTS... ARE GONE?
YEAH... MY REAL PARENTS AND MY STEP-PARENTS ARE BOTH DEAD.
EVEN MY STEP-BROTHER'S DEAD.
IF IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER,
YOU MAY CALL ME "DAD" WHILE WE'RE IN HERE.

HUH?!
REALLY ?!
THEN YOU CAN BE MY DAD FROM TOMORROW! THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET.
MIMELA... WHO IS THIS MAN?
A FORMER SEAMAN FROM KENT.
I'M THE APOTHE-CARY ZANTAK
UMM...
I WANTED TO BE A SEAMAN LIKE YOU, BUT MY DAD'S AGAINST IT...
I...
SO, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT WANTED TO SEE ME?

HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE ACT...
I SEE, I SEE!
WELL, LIFE ON A SHIP IS MIGHTY FINE...
ONCE I GET OUT OF HERE, I WOULD LOVE TO GET BACK ON A SHIP.
SO AT LEAST, IF I CAN LISTEN TO STORIES OF SEAFARING...
YOU KNOW, A SHIP'S NOT LIKE BEING ON LAND.
IF ONE WERE TO GET SICK...
BUT I GUESS THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE ANYMORE... WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THE DISEASE WILL STRIKE.
WE CAN'T HAVE THE ENTIRE CREW WIPED OUT, AND WE CAN'T STOP MIDWAY TO GO TO SHORE FOR TREATMENT. THOSE ARE THE RULES OF THE SEAFARING MEN.
SHARK BAIT?!
AYE, EVEN WITH A REGULAR ILLNESS...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MEN WHO DIED AT PORT?
MUCH LESS WITH A PLAGUE LIKE THIS, YOU'LL BE SHARK BAIT FOR SURE!

THOSE MEN GOT SICK AFTER WE LANDED.
AT PRINCE LORCA'S ORDERS, THEIR REMAINS WERE BURNED.
IF IT DIDN'T SPREAD FROM PEOPLE, THEN FROM WHERE?
THE ONLY REMAINING POSSIBILITIES ARE FROM THE FOOD OR WATER, BUT IN THE END, THIS PESTILENCE SPREAD BEYOND DOWNTOWN, INTO EVEN GORIEL'S PALACE.
PERHAPS, BY ANOTHER MODE OF TRANSMISSION?
NEVER MIND THAT, IF YOU'RE A FORMER APOTHECARY, CAN YOU TREAT THIS FOR ME?
THE ITCHING IS DRIVING ME CRAZY.
HM? ARE THESE THE LESIONS?
NO, THESE ARE FLEABITES.
SEE HOW THE BITES MARKS FORM A LINE.
Typical characteristics of a flea bite.

MY WORD! THEY HAVE FLEAS HERE?!
NO, I GOT BITTEN ABOARD MY SHIP.
YOU GOT RATS ON SHIPS, AND FLEAS ON RATS.
IT'S THE ONE THING THAT I HATE ABOUT BEING ON A SHIP.
RATS RUIN THE FOOD SUPPLIES ON BOATS.
ALTHOUGH THE RATS WERE EXTERMINATED USING POISONS, PEOPLE BECAME AFFECTED BY IT AS WELL...
THAT'S IT!
OH, DON'T MIND ME THANKS FOR THE INTERESTING STORIES, BUT SEEMS MY DAD FORGOT TO BRING THE MEDICINE, SO WE'LL BE BACK
HUH?
IT'S OKAY. LET'S GO!

COME TO THINK OF IT, THE TOWN WITH THE PLAGUE HAD A FLEA INFESTATION.
PRIOR TO LORD GORIEL PASSING AWAY,
I HEARD THAT THE HORSES IN THE CASTLE WERE DYING OFF LEFT AND RIGHT.
BOSS,
THE CULPRITS SPREADING THIS DISEASE ARE PROBABLY THE FLEAS ON THE RATS.
HOW COULD THAT BE?
FLEAS ARE TINY, BUT THEY CAN JUMP GREAT DISTANCES.
THEY HIDE IN AN ANIMAL'S FUR OR PEOPLE'S HAIR, SUCKING THE HOST'S BLOOD AND MULTIPLYING
I SEE! THEY TRANSMIT THE DISEASE AS THEY FEED ON BLOOD
THAT MAKES SENSE.

IF THAT'S THE TRANSMISSION ROUTE, WE MUST INFORM THE PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE RIGHT AWAY!
WE'LL GET OUT OF HERE EVENTUALLY.
ONCE WE PASS THE SEMI-MONTHLY PHYSICALS...
ABOUT THAT, MIMELA...
YOU SAID THERE WERE THOSE WHO WERE CURED, BUT NOT A SINGLE SOUL HAS GOTTEN OUT OF THIS PLACE.
WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO PASSED THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS? THEY HAVEN'T RETURNED HERE.
WHERE DID THEY GO?
IT SEEMS OUR NEXT MISSION IS TO PASS THE EXAMINATION AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS...

YOU SHOULD LET HIM OUT. I'LL VOUCH FOR HIM.
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE A TRAIL OR SOMETHING, THAT WAY I CAN FIND YOU IF YOU NEED RESCUING.
OUR CHANCES ARE BETTER IF WE SPLIT UP.
YOU WANT ME TO GO ALONE?!

I'LL LEAVE A TRAIL OF POWDERED MEDICINE FOR YOU TO FOLLOW.
FINE. I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION THIS TIME. COME.

NOW, LET'S SEE...
IDIOT. YOU REALLY ARE A BUSYBODY, OLD MAN.

NO. 27, NO. 53, NO. 102— NO ABNORMALITIES.
shuffle
shuffle
NO. 91, GO TO THE BACK DOOR.

STILL, BEING ALONE IS UNSETTLING.
I WONDER WHERE THAT SEAMAN WENT.
NUMBER 91, ZANTAK!
Y-YES!

NO ABNORMALITIES DETECTED AND YOUR COLOR IS GOOD, TOO.
SEE!
GO TO THAT DOOR.
EVERYONE, WE'VE GOT A NEW STOCK.
STOCK?

BE QUIET AND GET IN!
THUD!
HEY, WHY DID YOU SHUT ME IN HERE?!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THE STOCKS BECOME "THE SOURCE OF THE DISEASE."
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AND HERE WE THOUGHT WE WERE SAVED FROM THE EPIDEMIC
BUT TO LIVE AND STILL BE ENSNARED BY THIS DISEASE...
I'D RATHER BE DEAD!
UWAAAAAH!!

I WONDER IF BOSS IS SAFE...
AREN'T THEY ZANTAK'S APPRENTICES?
STOP DIGGING THAT HOLE RIGHT NOW AND COME UP HERE!!
HEY, YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
OF COURSE HE'S ALRIGHT!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

THE MEDICAL CENTER IS IN NAME ONLY. IT SEEMS WE'RE BEING USED AS GUINEA PIGS FOR THEIR EXPERIMENTS.
IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THE SEEDS OF THIS DISEASE, THEY NEED A SPECIAL SOURCE.
IF THE PEOPLE DIE OFF, THE DISEASE DIES OFF AS WELL.
Y-YES... WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
EXPERIMENTS...?
NO...
THERE ARE OTHERS, INCLUDING A SPY FROM NAVARA, WHO WILL BRING HELP SOON!
I'M AN APOTHECARY FROM BEAZOL AND I'VE COME TO EXPOSE THEIR SCHEMES
BUT EVERY-THING WILL BE ALRIGHT NOW!
SO, THE GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY IS INVOLVED IN THIS EPIDEMIC AFTER ALL...

NO, HE COULDN'T BE...
THEY'VE PLANTED INFORMANTS AMONG THE PATIENTS IN THE MEDICAL CENTER TO FERRET OUT ANY DISSIDENTS. I WAS RATTED OUT BY ONE OF THEM.
UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S PROBABLY ONE OF THEIR SPIES.
ZANTAK, COME!
SMM!!
HE COULDN'T BE.
IT'S USELESS TO RESIST. GIVE UP.
L-LET GO, STOP IT!
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'LL BE A GOOD STOCK.
REMEMBER, YOU GOTTA TAKE CARE OF NUMBER ONE
OLD MAN, TAKE IT EASY ON KEEPING OBLIGATIONS AND BEING COMPASSIONATE
EITHER WAY, I ONLY CAME HERE BECAUSE I KNEW I'D GET FED.
IT IS AS YOU SAID... MIMELA...

BOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT MIGHT BE AN ENEMY ATTACK. HURRY, READY, ASSISTANCE!
POP!
POP POP POP!
YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT. THOSE WERE ONLY FIRE-CRACKERS. NOW'S THE TIME TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!
YOU CAME AFTER ALL!
SOMETHING'S GOING ON OUTSIDE.
BOSS, YOU CAN THANK ME LATER! WE GOTTA HURRY NOW——
MIMELA!!
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?

SO, YOU WERE THE SPY.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A STRANGE KID,
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO GO THIS FAR
OH! THAT BIG GUY THERE, HE'S THE ONE THAT SNITCHED ON ME!
HUH? THAT SEAMAN WAS THE SPY?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
YOU HAD FLEA-BITES, YET YOU DIDN'T GET SICK
YOU WERE PROBABLY THE ONE THAT BROUGHT THE RAT POISON AND THE FLEAS INTO KENT IN THE FIRST PLACE
YOU PURPOSELY TOLD US ABOUT THE FLEAS TO TEST OUR REACTION.
JUST WHO ARE YOU?

UGH!!
WHAT THE...
EVERYONE, JUMP DOWN FROM THERE!
THERE'S A WAGON WAITING FOR US BELOW!
FLEA POWDER JUST AS YOU REQUESTED, I TREATED YOU FOR FLEAS
YOU TOO, BOSS!
BASH!!
WAIT A SECOND, I'M AFRAID OF HEIGHTS...
STOP COMPLAINING AND GO!

AAAAAHH!!!
BOSS, STOP FLAILING,
OR WE'LL MISS THE LANDING ZONE——
THEY OVER-SHOT THE JUMP!
THEY'RE GOING TO HIT THE GROUND!!
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
BOOF!
I WASN'T SEARCHING FOR YOU, BOSS. I JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY...
ZADITEN!
ZADITEN IS ORNERY AS EVER, ISN'T HE?
LONGES AND MYSREE!

I WAS QUITE SURPRISED WHEN THESE GUYS GOT ME, ASKING THAT I HELP MAKE FIREWORKS FOR THEM.
BOSS, WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE PRINCESS'S ESCAPE PLAN!
AND HERE ARE THE STREET PERFORMERS, LACK AND BEAN!
I SEE— NO WONDER IT WAS SO SHOWY.
It went swoosh!
It had a pros. equals.
BUT YOU ESCAPED SAFELY, RIGHT, MASTER?
DON'T CALL ME MASTER.
MIMELA, WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU?
I WAS THE MUTE, NEWBIE PERFORMER THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO SWITCH PLACES WITH THE PRINCESS.
BUT... YOU'RE ABLE TO SPEAK JUST FINE..
I CAN SPEAK.

BACK THEN, I WAS AFRAID IF I SPOKE, THE PRINCESS AND EVERYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE FIGURED ME OUT...
MAMA—!
SLAM!
OH MY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, PRINCE ZESLAN?
IT EMERGED JUST MOMENTS AGO.
It was only little so it took longer to grow.
I THOUGHT IT WAS DEAD FOR SURE.
FLOP

KYAAA ~~!! OH, NO! I KILLED IT!!
DON'T WORRY. IT'S ONLY FEIGNING DEATH.
THIS SPECIES OF INSECT PRETENDS TO BE DEAD WHEN IT FEELS THREATENED.
THERE, IT REVIVED ITSELF.
IT'S JUST LIKE HE SAID.
"HE"?
A YOUNG STREET PERFORMER THAT VISITED THE CASTLE A FEW MONTHS AGO. HE WAS MUTE, SO HE LEFT A NOTE. LET'S SEE...
HE HAD THE BUG'S NAME WRITTEN HERE. ITS SCIENTIFIC NAME IS *MIMELA SPLENDENS* AND THE COMMON NAME IS THE SCARAB BEETLE
THIS HAND-WRITING...
...AND SO, THAT'S WHY...

I, LORCA, THE THIRD PRINCE OF NAVARA— HAVE SAFELY RETURNED!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BOSS.
AAAAHH!!
FIRST ARGENT, AND NOW PRINCE LORCA IS BACK FROM THE GRAVE, TOO?!
BUT A FUNERAL WAS HELD FOR YOU.
YOU COULD SAY I WAS ONLY PLAYING DEAD.
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, ARGENT AND THE PRINCESS
IT WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO EXPOSE THE REAL VILLAINS
ANYWAY, I'LL FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS LATER. FOR NOW, JUST DO AS I ASK.
SOME UNEXPECTED EVENTS ARE UNFOLDING...
RECIPE 39 / END